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INFORMATION REPORT

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Vrazhdebna Airfield

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Location, Size and Use

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1. Vrazhdebna Airfield is located in the eastern outskirts of Sofia on the south side of the Sofia-Botevgrad highway. The airfield is approximately one and one-half to two kilometers square and is bounded by the Sofia-Botevgrad highway on the north, by a branch of the Iskur River on the east, arable lands on the south and the outskirts of Sofia on the west. The field is divided by the runway into two sections, the northern section is occupied by an Air Transport Regiment and a plane repair shop; the southern section is occupied by the Civil Air Transport Organization TABSO.

Runway and Planes

2. The runway of the airfield is concrete and was constructed in approximately 1941. It is about 1,000 meters long, 100 to 120 meters wide, and follows an approximately east to west direction. There are no auxiliary runways. All types of modern transport planes, including the Soviet CAMEL Transport, can land on the runway.

3. [redacted] the field handles night flights. The ground north of the runway is sandy and covered with grass in the spring. This area provides good conditions for landing small planes. There are concrete roads connecting the southern part of the airfield, which is occupied by TABSO [redacted]

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4. There are approximately 30 BARK, CRATE and Douglas transport planes belonging to the Air Transport Regiment plus an unknown number of transport planes belonging to TABSO. [redacted]

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Air Transport Regiment and Plane Repair Shop

5. The strength of the Air Transport Regiment at Vrazhdebna airfield is 150 to 200 officers, of whom approximately 50 are pilots, 30 to 35 non-commissioned officers and approximately 200 enlisted men. The plane repair shop consists of two buildings and three hangars and is managed by several Air Force officers though most of the employees are civilians.
6. The military and northern half of the airfield contains many buildings and installations, some of which are described below:
 - a. Entrance to the northern section of the field is on the gravel road from the Sofia-Botevgrad highway; a barrier which is guarded on one side of the road by a building, 4 by 4 meters in size, contains the office of the duty officer checking people entering, and on the other side of the road by a guardhouse, 8 by 4 meters in size.
 - b. Headquarters of the Air Transport Regiment, formerly air and terminal building of the civil air transport organization is a one-story, brick building, 20 by 8 meters in size, containing mess hall for pilots in the basement and regimental parachute service in the northern wing of the building.
 - c. Two hangars of Air Transport Regiment, each 25 by 10 meters in size.
 - d. Supply Battalion of the regiment; building 12 by 8 meters in size.
 - e. Hospital; two-story, brick building, 12 by 8 meters in size.
 - f. Warehouse for clothing and other supplies; building 10 by 6 meters in size.
 - g. Workshop and warehouse; two-story, brick building, 12 by 8 meters in size. Parachute workshop and parachute storage are on the second floor, spare part and oxygen storage are on the first floor. The parachute workshop repairs parachutes for the entire Air Force.
 - h. Office of the mess officer; building 4 by 4 meters in size.
 - i. Guest quarters; one-story building, 10 by 6 meters in size, with quarters for approximately 20 persons.
 - j. Medical Service; two-story building, 12 by 8 meters in size, contains facilities for checking the health of pilots. Serves the entire Air Force.
 - k. Fuel depot; open area, 150 by 200 meters in size, surrounded by barbed wire fence and guarded by a sentry; contains unknown number of gasoline drums.
 - l. Barracks and mess hall for soldiers; two-story, brick building, 20 by 10 meters in size.
 - m. Classrooms for pilots; two-story, brick building, 16 by 9 meters in size, containing repair shops for switchboard instruments and oxygen masks on second floor.
 - n. Office building; two-story, brick building, 10 by 4 meters in size, containing approximately six offices and two classrooms.
 - o. Ammunition and explosives depot, 10 by 6 meters in size, at the eastern end of the field near the Iskur river.
 - p. Headquarters of the Plane Repair Shop; building 8 by 6 meters in size.
 - q. Three hangars of the Plane Repair Shop; each 25 by 10 meters in size.
 - r. Office building of the Plane Repair Shop, 10 by 4 meters in size.
 - s. Garage and motor vehicle repair shop of Plane Repair Shop, 20 by 10 meters in size.

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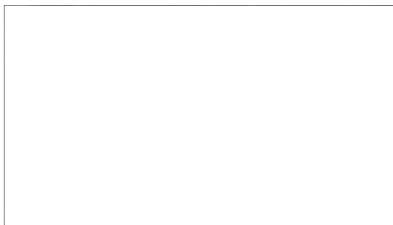


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 attachment to this report is a sketch of Vrazhdebna
Airfield with an attached legend.



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ATTACHMENT LEGEND TO SKETCH OF VRAZHDEBNA AIRFIELD

1. Sofia-Botevgrad Highway.
2. Vrazhdebna Village.
3. Gravel road leading to the airfield.
4. Iskur River.
5. Runway.
6. Sofia Air Terminal.
7. Road leading to the Sofia Air Terminal.
8. Bus Terminal - log cabin.
9. Office of the officer who checks the people who enter the airfield.
10. Guardhouse.
11. Hospital; two-story brick building.
12. Office building of the Supply Battalion of the Air Transport Regiment.
13. & Storages for clothing and other supplies.
- 14.
15. Two-story brick building; on the second floor is the parachute work shop and a parachute storage space. Here, parachutes for the entire Air Force are repaired. On the first floor there are storages for spare parts and oxygen masks and installations.
16. Office of the food supply service.
17. Hotel-Guesthouse; one-story building with facilities for about 20 persons.
18. Medical service; two-story building. This medical service serves the entire Bulgarian Air Force. Inside there are cabinets and installations for checking the health of the pilots.
19. POL's; open-air storage; Source noticed only barrels on the ground. No information about the existence of underground reservoirs. The area is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and is guarded by a sentry.
20. Soldiers' dining mess and dormitories; two-story brick building.
21. Classrooms for the pilots; a two-story brick building. On the second floor, there are shops for repair of switchboard instruments and oxygen masks.
22. One-story, brick building with undetermined contents.
23. Hangars.
24. Office building; two-story brick building with about six offices and two classrooms.
25. H.Q. of the Air Transport Regiment (former air terminal of the civilian air transport enterprises); one-story, brick building with a good basement used for dining mess of the pilots. In the northern wing of the building, is the parachute service of the regiment.
26. Hangars; used by the Airplane Repair Shop.
27. Office building of the Airplane Repair Shop.

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28. H.Q. of the Airplane Repair Shop-

The Airplane Repair Shops make the following repairs:

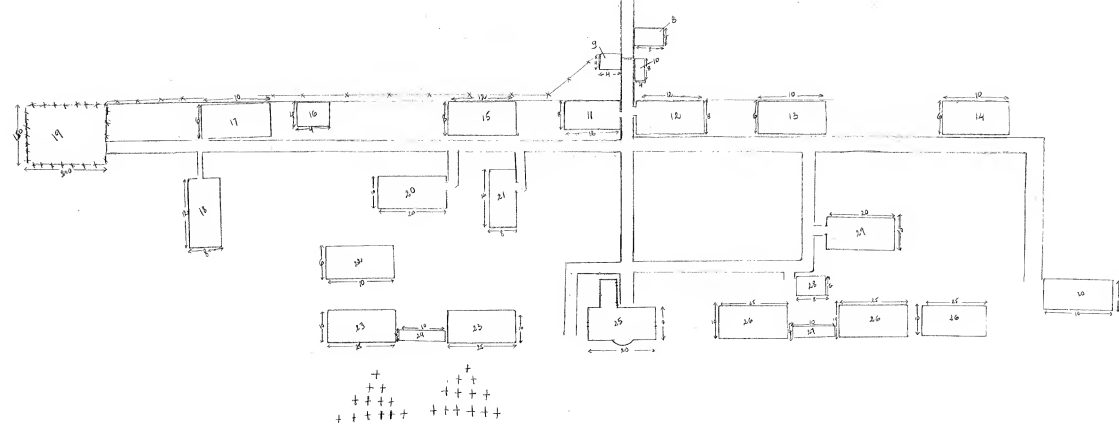
- change of engines
- repair of engines
- body repairs
- painting the planes

Most of the people employed in the repair shops are civilians. There are only a few Air Force officers - administrators of the shop.

29. Garage and repair shop for motor vehicles - part of the Airplane Repair Shop.

30. Ammunition and demolition storage. It is at the end of the airfield near the Iskur River.

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